

on all of the bad ideas of this Congress: the stimulus packages, the bailouts, Cash for Clunkers, cap-and-trade, because I know these mistakes are digging us deeper and deeper into a hole. I was one of only 17 members out of 435 to oppose all of these measures, not because I want to obstruct legislation, but because our personal freedom and economic liberty are restricted each time we create obligations we can't pay for.

Kansas, like many States, is constitutionally prohibited from running in the red. When Congress irresponsibly shoulders States with mandates and expenses, it's the States and their taxpayers that suffer because they can't evade fiscal responsibilities like the Federal Government often does.

Last Sunday is the latest and most glaring example of this elitist, Washington-knows-best attitude. On Sunday night, this Congress passed the Obama-Pelosi health care plan along a narrow partisan line against my staunch opposition. This plan, which became law on Monday, is the wrong direction for America for a long, long list of reasons. With our national debt already at more than \$12 trillion, this new plan will drive us further in the hole. The total cost of this health care plan is more than \$1.33 trillion. While this estimate is staggering, it doesn't take into account the almost \$400 billion needed to fix the Medicare payments to physicians—payments that Kansas doctors must receive to avoid a 21-percent cut and keep their doors open.

Furthermore, this cost estimate doesn't account for the \$20 billion that States must expend to implement the Medicaid expansion contained in the health care plan. Kansans can't afford these billions of new costs, but they are required to carry out so-called reforms. Since Kansans can't afford the requirements of this unfunded mandate, we may be forced to take deeper cuts out of our education system and close and consolidate more schools, dimming the light of opportunity for many Kansans.

Washington needs to open its eyes to this gathering storm. Kansans understand that we can't create an entirely new government entitlement program without exploding spending and increasing our national debt. Our history doesn't support the President's list of campaign-style, promise-the-world pledges. This bill will not only seriously injure our health care system, but its tax increases, mandates, and increased bureaucracy will ruin the Kansas economy and jobs.

I will continue the battle in Washington against this attitude that we know best. It threatens the future prosperity of our future State and Nation. On Monday, I introduced H.R. 4901, legislation to repeal the health care plan we just passed. Only with a total repeal of this budget-busting mistake can we then institute true reforms that will lower health care costs for families and businesses. My legisla-

tion will undo what has been done and replace it with something much more based upon common sense and the will of the American people. Only then can we have a health care system that is truly improved. We and other States demand this change for purposes of making sure that prosperity returns to our State.

And Madam Speaker, that's just the way it should be.

ON THE OCCASION OF THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NATIONAL CENTER FOR ATMOSPHERIC RESEARCH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. POLIS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. POLIS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the National Center for Atmospheric Research, or as we back home in Colorado call it, NCAR, on the occasion of their 50th year conducting the climate and weather research that has become an icon of the American spirit of research and a vital part of all of our daily lives.

In the 1950s, the Nation's farmers, the rapidly growing airlines, and other sectors of our industrializing economy needed better weather forecasts. Pollution of the atmosphere was becoming a serious problem in urban areas. Cloud-seeding experiments suggested it might some day be possible to modify or impact certain kinds of weather, but the U.S. atmospheric research community wasn't adequately meeting the challenges of information that the new world of opportunity offered to use.

In 1956, Detlev Bronk, president of the National Academy of Sciences, appointed a committee of distinguished scientists from several disciplines and instructed them to consider and recommend means by which to increase our understanding and control of the atmosphere. In 1958, the committee came back with several findings and recommendations that led to the establishment of the University Corporation for Atmospheric Research. Solar astronomer Walter Orr Roberts at the University of Colorado was appointed president of UCAR, and the decision was made to call the institute the National Center for Atmospheric Research, which chose a spectacular hill-top in Boulder, Colorado, to call its home in 1960.

This iconic building is not only home to the most advanced weather and climate change research in the world; it is also a part of the Boulder Community. Designed by I.M. Pei, this building is a focal point of our community. A breathtaking drive takes you to the facility that hosts an interactive climate and museum. The staff offers tours for the public to see firsthand the tools to fight climate change as well as to predict when you need an umbrella over the weekend.

The facility is also a community meeting place, a demonstration of

what can happen when the Federal Government partners with local communities, schools, governments, and academia. On behalf of my constituents, I offer gratitude to have this facility and everything it stands for be part of our family in our district. I acknowledge through the research they produce they create great global benefit.

In this 50th year, I ask my colleagues to continue support for President Obama's ambitious levels of funding for the National Science Foundation and NCAR. I invite my friends on both sides of the aisle to visit Boulder, Colorado, and this facility, and experience the full context of what the symbiosis of government, academia, and private ingenuity can do.

My district, even in this economy, continues to have lower unemployment than surrounding districts. One of the reasons is as a result of the science and Federal research dollars that are spent in our district.

My hope is that NCAR will continue to yield Nobel laureates and offer the Nation and the world cutting-edge research with practical applications, and as a result continue to make Boulder the world headquarters for climate and weather research. Congratulations to NCAR and to the scientists and people who work there—my constituents—that carry on this important mission.

SPENDING MONEY WE DON'T HAVE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Madam Speaker, I'm not going to talk for 5 minutes, but I would like to talk to my Democratic colleagues tonight because once again it seems that we're spending money that we don't have. And I know this may sound funny, but the American people can't figure out why they have to balance their budgets and we keep spending money we don't have, we don't have, we don't have.

Now, the bill we passed today provided \$6 million in funds that we did appropriate money for, for use for summer jobs, and we had \$5.1 billion for disaster relief. Well, now, disaster relief is something that I think is very laudable. But we have had the President say a number of times he is for what's called PAYGO, and if you come up with a program and don't have the money, you have to come up with the money by cutting another program to take care of the one that you're funding. So we had another \$5.1 billion added to the deficit today.

The deficit projected by the White House over the next 10 years is \$900 billion a year. And they've been short on their projections all over the place. For instance, they said that the health care bill we just passed—which most Americans don't want—was only going to cost about \$800-and-some billion. But, when you realize that we're paying for